

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 044273

NODIS

USSALTTWO

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 02837, SENT SECSTATE 21 FEB:

QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 02837

NODIS

PLEASE REPEAT TO BONN, PARIS, USNATO,
GENEVA (US SALT TWO)

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO SALT MNUC

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR NAC CONSULTATION ON SALT

REF: STATE 042975

1. IN ABSENCE OF TONY DUFF WHO WAS SNOW BOUND IN
DORSET, CHARGE MADE POINTS REFTEL FEBRUARY 20 TO
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ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY PATRICK MOBERLY. HE
APPRECIATED US EFFORT TO ACHIEVE SMOOTHEST POSSIBLE
SESSION IN NAC ON FEBRUARY 24 AND HIGH-LEVEL US INTEREST
REFLECTED IN OUR APPROACH. ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION,
COVERAGE OF GRAY AREAS IN SALT III PRINCIPLES AND
ER/RB, HE SAID THAT UK POSITIONS HAD NOT ADVANCED TO
POINTS WHERE THE UK COULD ASSIST MUCH NOW IN ATTAINING

US OBJECTIVES IN FRIDAY NAC MEETING.

2. ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION LANGUAGE, HE AFFIRMED THAT THE UK WOULD STAND BY ITS PREVIOUS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE FORMULATIONS PROPOSED BY THE US. MOREOVER, THE EXTENT OF FRG CONCERN WAS CLEAR FROM UK-FRG BILATERALS LAST WEEK. WILBERFORCE, HEAD OF FCO DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, WHO ACCOMPANIED MOBERLY, THOUGHT THE LEGAL PRECISIONS IN REFTEL WOULD HELP EASE FRG CONCERNS AND SAID HMG AS WELL WOULD FIND THE ARGUMENTATION OF HELP. MOBERLY UNDERLINED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP THE US COULD TAKE TO SPEED NAC CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE AN UNAMBIGUOUS PRESENTATION IN NAC ON AND COMMITMENT TO A SCENARIO FOR HANDLING NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN US PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON THE TREATY TEXT. HE BELIEVED THIS WOULD EASE FRG CONCERNS AND HELP IN BUILDING A CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF US APPROACH.

3. REGARDING TREATMENT OF GRAY AREAS IN SALT III PRINCIPLES, MOBERLY REFLECTED UK DESIRE TO LEAVE OPTIONS FULLY OPEN BUT HE ADMITTED THAT FORMULATION US PROPOSED SEEMED TO DO JUST THAT. HOWEVER, HE SAID HMG WOULD NOT HAVE A POSITION ON THE MATTER BY FEBRUARY 24 AND THAT, ACCORDINGLY, UK WOULD BE IN A LISTENING MODE AT THE NAC MEETING. RECALLING RECENT FRENCH-UK BILATERAL ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS, MOBERLY NOTED THAT THE FRENCH COULD
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HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT STATEMENTS THAT SEEMED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THEATRE AND OTHER SYSTEMS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY MIGHT THREATEN TO ENTANGLE THE FRENCH IN NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO, AND MOBERLY STRESSED THE REMARKABLE RECENT SHIFT IN FRENCH STRATEGIC VIEWS, BECAUSE THEY MIGHT CUT ACROSS THE CONTINUUM OF DETERRENCE.

4. ON ERW, MOBERLY SAID THAT THE US PROPOSAL REMAINED UNDYBDSLIEW AND THAT, AS A RESULT, UK WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT US AT FEBRUARY 24 NAC. CHARGE UNDERLINED THE ADVANCE REPRESENTED BY THE TWO STAGE APPROACH AND MOBERLY SAID THAT HE HAD ASSUMED SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL TO OPERATION OF THE ARMS CONTROL LINKAGE TO THE SS-20.

5. COMMENT: THE BRITISH RECOGNIZE THAT WASHINGTON IS ANXIOUS FOR EARLY NAC AGREEMENT ON ALL THESE MATTERS. WE FORESEE NO PROBLEM WITH HMG ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION ISSUE AND BELIEVE THEY WILL GO ON COUNSELING FRG ON THE WISDOM OF THE US APPROACH. WE ALSO BELIEVE THE UK WILL BE FLEXIBLE ON TREATMENT OF GRAY AREAS IN PRINCIPLES AS LONG AS NO OPTIONS ARE CLOSED.

6. ERW IS MORE COMPLICATED. THE BRITISH -- INCLUDING
DAVID OWEN -- ARE NOW FULLY AWARE OF OUR VIEWS. HOWEVER,
WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOT KEY OUR EFFORTS WITH OWEN
AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS TO A SCHEDULE OF NAC MEETINGS.
THIS IS A POLITICAL QUESTION OF CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY
HERE AND IT WILL BE DECIDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. HIS
CONCURRENCE, WHICH WE THINK WILL EVENTUALLY BE FORTH-
COMING, IS IN TURN LARGELY DEPENDENT ON AGREEMENT BY THE
FRG. CALLAGHAN CLEARLY WISHES TO AVOID GETTING OUT IN
FRONT OF SCHMIDT ON THIS ISSUE. THUS, IN OUR JUDGMENT
IF THE GERMANS FALL INTO LINE, THE BRITISH WILL NOT BE
FAR BEHIND. STREATOR UNQUOTE. VANCE

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